THE CITY IN THE DESERT.

Ruins of Prehistoric Buildings Discovered in the Colorado Desert, Cal.

Further Particulars of the Find Briefly Mentioned in the Dispatches Received Yesterday.

A San Diego, California, dispatch of July 25th, which appeared in the News Tuesday evening, gave a brief account of the discovery, made by prospectors in the Colorado desert, California, of the ruins of a prehistoric city. The telegram further stated that a party which started out from San Diego to explore those ruins had been driven back by a furious sandstorm, but would make another effort to reach the place.

The first discovery was made by treasure-hunters from Arizona. Three weeks ago a party of prospectors, consisting of Hank Ferguson, Theodore Price, Joe Atherton and John Cline, left Yuma in search of the mysterious Peglegmine. They took a new direction after leaving the Colorado river bottom and beat their course slightly to the northwest, toward the Cocopah mountains, in the hope that as the lost mine was not to be found in the most direct route across the desert it might reveal itself in some out-of-the-way place toward the bleak and uninviting peaks of the Cocopahs.

The men prospected along the mountains freely but without success. They came into a region where the rocky hills gave good indications of being gold bearing. One particular spot some little distance from where the party camped, showed what the men supposed were dikes of granite extending in a peculiar manner across the strata.

Hank Ferguson and some of the others went over to have a closer look and were amazed to come upon the ruins of what appeared to have been a great stone building or a series of buildings. Too objects they had seen from camp were granite pillars of remarkably symmetrical design that seem to have been the entrance to the structure. Ferguson and his associates began a further inspection of their queer find, which from their accounts will undoubtedly prove to be the most important archæological discovery that has come to the notice of scientists for years.

The walls of the once great building had been taken down or perhaps had been shaken to the ground by the tremendous earthquakes that even to this day visit the desert region, terrifying the Indians and reviving the memory of volcanoes.

A rough approximation of the extent of the ruins showed them to be about 420 feet long by 250 feet wide. The north and east walls, or what little remained of them, were exposed to view, as well as a portion of the south wall. The pillars already mentioned were upon the north side and were curiously formed to represent rattlesnakes. They were slightly carved, the bottom or tail ends were made to resemble the rattles, and upon their backs rested immense slabs of granite weighing tons. In all forty-eight pillars, some fairly well preserved, were found, and all were beautifully proportioned. At their tops, above the snakes' heads, was frieze ornamentation, resembling Egyptian sculpture, and exhibiting far more skill in its workmanship than is possessed by the Indians of the present day. The enclosure between the walls was filled with debris, and no satisfactory examination of the interior could be made. However, fragments of pottery were found near the surface, which, with a piece of the stone upon which was a small portion of the ornamentation, were carried away by the prospectors.

Ferguson says that he could see no cement or similar material that had been used in the construction of the building, big slabs of granite having apparently been laid one upon another. All around the exposed parts the same class of ornamentation was found that was upon the pillars. In one place at the foot of the stone pillars stone steps were found hewn out of granite. The number of steps, on account of the earth and debris, could not be ascertained.

Ferguson and his associates were naturally much excited over the discoveries and gave no further thought to prospecting for minerals. After resting and taking particular note of the locality, two of the party started to return to Yuma, and Ferguson and his companions headed toward San Diego. They arrived there over a week ago, disheartened and with the apparent one of leaving, had a hard trip. The wonderful discovery they had made was kept a secret between them for several days, there being an agreement to that effect among the party.

Ferguson proposed to find some man of capital who would make an examination of the ruins. He thought the discovery would prove profitable. He intrusted the matter to H. C. Gordon of San Diego, told the story of the great find, and exhibited pottery and fragments of the granite, with its wonderful carving. The story seemed "fishy" to Gordon and he was slow to become interested. Ferguson's evident sincerity, however, and his continued enthusiasm over the matter at last convinced Gordon that there was something in the man's story, and he promised to try and find someone to go to the ruins.

Gordon told John H. Gay Jr., one of the wealthiest men in San Diego, of the reported discovery, and the latter evinced a deep interest in it. Without further delay Gordon and Gay arranged for a trip to the place. They sent boats ahead to Midewell and with Ferguson and his companions they took the Cocopahs train to Lakeside, northeast of San Diego, a week ago last Friday.

Saturday morning the party, six in number, started down Carrizo creek and camped that night at Carrizo ranch. The stream near which they camped had been a mere volcanic crater and small and apparently sterile fish were caught in large numbers in the stream. They had no fishing tackle and simply used a barley sack, emptying the fish up by the dozens.

The following day the party reached the new or the Salomia cemetery. Monday morning the 17th, all the water that could be possibly taken along was secured, and after sending two ladies back to the last place with water boxes, the party again started.

They had presented a number of miles on the camel when they were overtaken by a sandstorm and were compelled to stop. The storm raged for hours with no sign of abating, and the heat was intense. The water supply was greatly reduced, and rather than risk further danger the men resolved to return and see if a more favorable season to make the exploration.

Ferguson himself was seven days such arrangement and insisted on finishing the trip, but the others had lost sight of the idea and the return was begun. The men were left at Julian in charge of Ferguson, while the others came on, arriving at San Diego on the evening of Saturday, July 22.

Gay and Gordon have lost some of their interest in the exploration, and Ferguson is exceedingly anxious to have the place revisited. The men are arranging to start out again in a few days, prepared to make the trip through if no unforeseen difficulty prevents. In the meantime the greatest interest is increasing, and other parties will probably head for the scene of action, eager to give to the world the first detailed description of the new discovery.

IN NOTTINGHAM.

Diligence and Faithfulness of the Elders, Though the Harvest Seems Slight.

No. 40 Sabina St., Nottingham, England, July, 1893.—A few days since I wrote a letter to the Deseret *Daily News* in answer to a writing of a Mr. Florar of that place, who it appears had visited Salt Lake City a year ago and was there at the laying of the capstone of the Temple. To the best of his memory, no doubt, he describes the condition of the people of Utah and says the great Temple which has been rearing during the past forty years, the account being full of false and lewd assertions and unjustified and hasty deductions, some of which I hope my answer was effective in correcting.

I have been laboring in the Nottingham Conference now a little over a year and during this time have seen many strange lines and have heard many different ideas in regard to what an individual must do to be saved eternal life; but as yet I have not found anyone able to enunciate the principles which we are preaching to their consideration. There are now in the conference ten Elders, including the President, William C. Hauser, who spends his time in the affairs of the conference and visiting and comforting the Saints throughout the district branches. There has been a great change wrought among the Saints since the dedication of the Temple and now the time has plainly to them, as it is not a very difficult matter to tell who are saints and who are not. Some of those who were history are coming to the front and taking a greater interest than ever before, while on the other hand, others have turned back like the sow that was washed to her wallow in the mire. The Elders' time is occupied in "tracting" through the city and holding open air meetings in the evening. A few days since Elder Hauser and your humble servant were in Leicester and in conducting with James Boston and H. J. Smith, traveling Elders at that place, held a few open air meetings. Our first was entirely to a crowing congregation, which of course was not very encouraging. However, we were blessed with the pleasant feeling that give us to understand we had done our duty, and thus we kept through to another place. The time we left off at Humberstone gate, a public gathering place which the Elders are well acquainted with. Here a very large crowd gathered around us, but as soon as they found out who we were they began throwing the opening by asking impertinent questions. This we patiently bore, by asking them one by one to give us a hearing, and by the time an organ-grinder came the sequence and our meeting was turned into a dancing school. They were soon quieted down again for a few minutes, and again the Gospel of Christ was presented to them and never the speaker was interrupted. The word preached did not yield them, but being mixed with faith in those that heard it. My text was for repentance upon an article in the Jerusalem giving an experience of the Prophet Joseph Smith on the occasion when pleading in an assembly. A duck of some flew over their heads and drew the attention of the assembly and he told them that if they thought more of the geese than of the concerts he would stop, which he did. We also felt that if the people thought more of the organ grinder than of the Gospel we would stop which we did. We can but choose to whom, but we cannot force it to drink. Thus we can present the Gospel to the people, but we cannot force them to accept it.

There are now four different places open, which are being worked: the Leicester branch by Elders C. C. Crowell, H. J. Smith and Israel Hall; the Derby branch by James Boston and John Bellamy; the Loughborough district by Edmond Stevens and John Parkin, and Nottingham by Wm. C. Hauser, Henry Holmes and G. Wm. Wright. Tracting and cottage meetings are kept up for the people, and we have had some very good meetings at Sutton during the last six weeks or thereabouts. Meetings have to change and outgrow, but we are doing all we can. We have distributed many tracts, and books given away, by persons tracted, by children tracted. The general feeling of the Elders is good and we are in good health and all in their power for the cause of truth and righteousness. Sometimes the children obstruct, they are asked to leave, but we do the same feeling it is meet, all through the conference, and we feel that it is best to get the people but as the people, so they seem to be so hemmed in by their fears and prejudices that they are satisfied with what they have. Still, there and better are coming in, but from day to day which we hope one day will have the desired effect and the Saints will cast upon the waters, to reap again after many days.

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Program.

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1. Chorus, Valley of Deseret, Stephens.
2. Duet, Consolation, Stephens. Lizzie Thomas Edward and Agnes Glover Vincent.
3. Male Chorus, The Pilgrims, Parry, (Chorus, United chorus for prize of $300.)

Intermission. 5 o'clock.

1. Selection, Saltair Orchestra.
2. Solo, The Forbidden Song, H. C. Farnes.
3. World's Fair Contest Chorus for grand prize of $400.

250 Voices.

a. Worship in the Lord, Handel's Messiah.
b. Blessed are the Men, Montemerlo's Funeral.
c. Now the Impetuous Torrents Rise, Jenkin's David and Saul.

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8:15 o'clock.

The entire program as above, carried out with no repeat, without intermission, consisting of 15 numbers.

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The last trains will leave Saltair at 9:30 and 10 o'clock.
Trains Leave R. G. W. Depot at usual time.

Fare 50cts., including both Concerts.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE Concerts will be devoted to going the Choir to speak for the city in Chicago, for the purpose of taking part in the great competition and supplying an appropriate position for the conference of Utah Dist. September 4th, 1893.

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